

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 9, as follows:**

Note that in this specification, the leftmost component supplying units 115a and 215a (Block A and Block C) in each stage are referred to as the “left blocks”, while the ~~leftmost~~ rightmost component supplying units 115b and 215b (Block B and Block D) in each stage are referred to as the “right blocks”.

**Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 5, as follows:**

The cover tape 425 is peeled off the ~~cover tape~~ carrier tape 425 by a cover tape separating unit 433 that is positioned before the feed roller 429 (towards the supply reel 426). The separated cover tape 425 is wound around a cover tape collecting reel 434 and the carrier tape 424 from which the cover tape 425 has been removed is transported to the electronic component removing unit 435. At the same time as the carrier tape 424 is fed by the feed roller 429, the electronic component removing unit 435 opens in conjunction with the movement of the ratchet 432, and a vacuum suction head (not illustrated) picks up a chip-shaped electronic component 423d using suction, thereby removing it from a storage space 424a. After this, the pressing force applied by the feed lever of the apparatus is removed and the force applied by a tension spring 436 causes the feed lever 430 to move in the direction shown as  $Y_2$  in FIG. 9. As a result, the feed lever 430 returns to its original position.

**Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 62, line 2, as follows:**

An IC tag 426b is attached to each of these sticks 117b. The two IC tag readers/writers 111 specify the position of each IC tag 426b in a direction in which the sticks 117b are laid, based on a result of receiving electric waves from the IC tag 426b attached to each of the ~~trays~~sticks 117b. Accordingly, the two IC tag readers/writers 111 can specify the position or number of each stick 117b as in the case of specifying Z numbers.